

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 51

Expressing the sense of the Congress that Dr. Doan Viet Hoat is to be praised and honored for his commitment to fight for democratic change in Vietnam.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ (for herself, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. DAVIS of Virginia) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that Dr. Doan Viet Hoat is to be praised and honored for his commitment to fight for democratic change in Vietnam.

Whereas Doan Viet Hoat spent his life fighting for democratic change in Vietnam and has spent 19 of the last 21 years in Vietnamese prisons for his efforts to bring democracy to his homeland;

Whereas Doan Viet Hoat, an educator, received a doctorate in Education and College Administration from Florida State University in 1971 and was Assistant to the Chancellor of Van Hanh University in Saigon from 1971 to 1975;

Whereas Doan Viet Hoat was denounced for his relationship with the United States and sentenced in 1976 to 12 years in Chi Hoa Prison without a trial, where he continued to write essays calling for democracy, human rights, and free elections for Vietnam;

Whereas after his release from prison, Doan Viet Hoat founded the Dien Dan To Do (Freedom Forum) newsletter and continued to publish prodemocracy articles;

Whereas in 1990, the Vietnamese authorities sentenced him to a 20-year prison sentence for attempting to overthrow the government by establishing a political organization and using the publication as an instrument to mobilize the public;

Whereas Doan Viet Hoat received the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award and the Golden Pen of Freedom Award of the World Association of Newspapers for his contributions to the cause of freedom;

Whereas for nearly 20 years as a political prisoner, Doan Viet Hoat has been an example of great moral strength and courage for other political prisoners, refusing offers of freedom in exchange for a renunciation of his personal and political beliefs;

Whereas Doan Viet Hoat was released on August 29, 1998, from prison in Vietnam, and was admitted to the United States as a refugee after considerable pressure was exerted upon the Vietnamese Government to release prisoners of conscience;

Whereas Doan Viet Hoat called for the abolishment of the directive on “administrative detainment” which allows security forces to detain dissidents for up to 2 years without trial; and

Whereas Dr. Doan Viet Hoat has dedicated his entire life to
the cause of freedom and democracy for his fellow Viet-
namese, at the price of his own freedom: Now, therefore,
be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that
3 Doan Viet Hoat is to be praised and honored for his con-
4 tributions to the cause of democracy in Vietnam.

